

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

**Claim 1** (Currently amended). A method of treating a patient having melanoma which has been surgically removed, which comprises administering to such a patient a therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated PEG12000~~ interferon alpha for a time period sufficient to increase progression-free survival time;

wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated PEG12000~~ interferon alpha administered is selected from the group consisting of about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated PEG12000~~ interferon alpha-2b and about 200 micrograms to 250 micrograms of ~~pegylated PEG12000~~ interferon alpha-2a.

**Claim 2** (Canceled).

**Claim 3** (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is a treatment-naive patient.

**Claim 4** (Original). The method of claim 3 wherein the treatment-naive patient is one having newly diagnosed melanoma.

**Claim 5** (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is a treatment-experienced patient.

**Claim 6** (Original). The method of claim 5 wherein the treatment experienced patient is intolerant to interferon alpha or resistant to interferon alpha.

**Claim 7** (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the time period is at least about 24 months.

**Claim 8** (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha administered is about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 10 (Currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha administered is about 200 micrograms to 250 micrograms of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2a.

Claim 11 (Currently amended). A method of treating a patient having cutaneous melanoma which has been surgically removed which comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha once a week for a time period sufficient to increase progression-free survival time;

wherein the effective amount of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha administered once a week is selected from the group consisting of about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b and about 200 micrograms to 250 micrograms of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2a.

Claim 12 (Currently amended). The method of claim 11 wherein the effective amount of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha administered once a week is about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 13 (Currently amended). The method of claim 11 wherein the effective amount of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha administered once a week is about 200 micrograms to 250 micrograms of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2a.

Claim 14 (Original). The method of claim 11 wherein the time period is at least about 100 weeks.

Claim 15 (Currently amended). A method of treating a patient having cutaneous melanoma which comprises administering to such a patient

about 3.0 micrograms/kg micrograms/kg to about 9.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG12000 interferon alpha-2b once a week for a time period sufficient to increase the progression-free survival time.

**Claim 16** (Original). The method of claim 15 wherein the time period is about 100 weeks.

**Claim 17** (Currently amended). The method of claim 15 wherein about 4.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG12000 interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week.

**Claims 18-20** (Canceled).

**Claim 21** (Currently amended). The method of claim 17 wherein about 5.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG12000 interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week.

**Claim 22** (Currently amended). The method of claim 21 wherein about 6.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG12000 interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week.

**Claim 23** (Currently amended). The method of Claim 22 further comprising a dose reduction step such that 6.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG12000 interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for eight weeks, and

then 3.0 or less micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG12000 interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for the remainder of a five year treatment period.

**Claim 24** (Currently amended). The method of Claim 23 wherein the dose reduction step is to 3 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG12000 interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of a five year treatment period.

**Claim 25** (Currently amended). The method of Claim 24 further comprising a second dose reduction step to 2 micrograms/kg of

pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

**Claim 26 (Currently amended).** The method of Claim 25 further comprising a third dose reduction step to 1 microgram/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

**Claim 27 (Currently amended).** The method of claim 12 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is about 4.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

**Claim 28 (Currently amended).** The method of claim 27 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is about 5.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b.

**Claim 29 (Currently amended).** The method of claim 28 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is about 6.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

**Claim 30 (Currently amended).** The method of Claim 29 further comprising a dose reduction step such that 6.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for eight weeks, and

then 3.0 or less micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for the remainder of a five year treatment period.

**Claim 31 (Currently amended).** The method of Claim 30 wherein the dose reduction step is to 3 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

Claim 32 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 31 further comprising a second dose reduction step to 2 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

Claim 33 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 32 further comprising a third dose reduction step to 1 microgram/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

Claim 34 (Currently amended). The method of claim 9 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is about 4.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 35 (Currently amended). The method of claim 34 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is about 5.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 36 (Currently amended). The method of claim 35 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is about 6.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 37 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 36 further comprising a dose reduction step such that 6.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for eight weeks, and  
then 3.0 or less micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for the remainder of a five year treatment period.

Claim 38 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 37 wherein the dose reduction step is to 3 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub>

interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

**Claim 39 (Currently amended).** The method of Claim 38 further comprising a second dose reduction step to 2 micrograms/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

**Claim 40 (Currently amended).** The method of Claim 39 further comprising a third dose reduction step to 1 microgram/kg of pegylated PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.